purposes other than those mentioned under Rule 70 of MCR, 1960, sand is treated as minor mineral. For minor minerals, mineral concessions are granted by the concerned State Governments under their respective Minor Mineral Concession Rules (MMCRs). For major minerals, mineral concessions are granted by the concerned State Governments under the provisions of MCR, 1960 subject to the condition of submitting a mining plan duly approved by the competent authority under the provisions of 22(4A) of MCR, 1960 by the lease holder.

Mining leases for major minerals are granted under the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and rules made there under and for minor minerals under the provisions of MMCRs of respective State Governments. Under the MMDR Act, 1957, Section 11 does not provide for auction of mineral concessions for major minerals. As such, the details of sale negotiation for disposal of publicly owned rivers/sand is maintained by the respective State Government.

Underground water level in Delhi

1386. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the underground water level in Delhi is fast depleting following an increasing demand and decreasing supply of water per day;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to augment the volume of supply so as to reduce the drawal of underground water to the minimum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) As per observations made by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), ground water level is declining in different parts of NCT of Delhi. The Delhi Jal

Board (DJB) supplies about 660 MGD (million gallon/day) of water by optimization against the demand of 800 MGD. Out of which, 86.5% water is drawn from surface water sources and rest 13.5% water from ground water sources. The steps taken to augment the volume of supply and to reduce the drawal of underground water in NCT of Delhi includes:—

(i) DJB has set up a 40 MGD water treatment plant at Nangloi.

(ii) DJB has also planned to set up 140 MGD water treatment plant in Sonia Vihar.

(iii) DJB has planned construction of additional water treatment plants from the saving of seepage losses after the construction of parallel lines channel from Munak to Haiderpur Water Treatment Plant.

(iv) DJB has also planned to re-cycle the waste water generated at the existing plants.

(v) The Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation has amended Building Bye-laws, 1983 making provision for water harvesting through storing of water run off including rain water in all new buildings on plots of 100 square metres and above in Delhi mandatory.

(vi) The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has notified South and South West districts of NCT of Delhi prohibiting further digging of wells.

(vii) CGWB has promoted artificial recharge to ground water in NCT of Delhi by financing proposals under its Central Sector Scheme on "Study of Recharge to Ground Water". Besides, the CGWB has also assisted various agencies and individuals in preparation of proposals and provided technical guidance including design for construction of rain water harvesting structures.